The State Grant Exchange

Providing Health and Safety Training to the Nation's Miners - - The Right Thing to do!!!

State Grants Business Meeting

The State Grants Business Meeting was again a big success. The meeting was held at the Mine Health and Safety Academy in Beckley, West Virginia, on April 15-17. There were representatives from 39 states in attendance. The State Grants Program Office provided guest speakers and presenters from MSHA and states. Guest speakers included Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health J. Davitt McAteer and Deputy Assistant Secretary Andrea Hricko.

Open Microphone Session

J. Davitt McAteer conducted an open microphone session for the grantees over the Academy's video conferencing setup. Grantees provided suggestions, ideas, and stated concerns pertaining to the operations of the State Grants Program. Davitt stated that he would continue to support the program and provide the states with the necessary assistance to make for successful training programs for the Nation's mining industry.

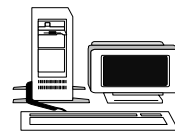### MSHA Silicosis Awareness Initiative and Occupational Health Hazards!!!

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Andrea Hricko presented to the grantees an database that identified mines by state with overexposure to silica and other respirable dust. The information in the database was distributed to the grantees on a diskette in Microsoft EXCEL. To aid them in directing their resources.

Welcome New Grantees

An introductory meeting was held for the new grant participants. The meeting included a question and answer session with the MSHA State Grants Office staff and the Acquisition Management Office staff. Programmatical and administrative procedures was discussed to help the new grantees plan for the upcoming grant year. Some veteran grant participants were in attendance to welcome the new grantees and to offer assistance to the programs if needed. Some of the new grantees stated that the welcome session was a good idea because they could discuss ideas with MSHA and other grantees to help make their programs more effect for mine safety training. Veteran grant participants stated that the welcome session help them to refresh their thoughts and ideas for planning the new grant year and to improve their grant proposals.

State Grants Technical Information Database

The State Grants Program Office introduced a new technical report database. The database is based on the new technical reporting system of mid-year and final accomplishment reporting. This concept was introduced by the State Grants Program Office staff in workshops at the meeting . The new system is similar to the existing electronic quarterly technical reports. The information collected is basically the same, but instead of the workload table for mines and miners trained, the workloads are in a question format. Greg Graham of the State Grants Program Office held a hands-on computer workshop explaining the new system. Representatives from each state in attendance received a copy of the database.

Metal/Nonmetal Fatal Accident Analysis 1994-1997

MSHA Metal/Nonmetal Accident Investigation Program Manager, Rod Breland presented a Microsoft Power Point presentation on the accident trends in various metal/nonmetal states. The presentation showed the accidents and fatalities in various categories of concern such as powered haulage, handling of materials, and other categories that plague the mining industry. The analysis showed the day of the week that the accidents most commonly occur and other interesting trends. The presentation was distributed to the grantees and current updates are sent over the State Grants Program Office INTERNET E-Mail system to the grantees quarterly.

Meet Your Training Specialist Coal & Metal/Nonmetal

MSHA training specialist were invited to the business meeting this year to meet with the grantees. The training specialists had there own workshops with grantees from their districts. This gave both parties a chance to discuss ideas for better communications between the districts and the grantees. The workshops also provided the training specialists with an opportunity to meet new grant personnel.

Other Workshops and Presentations

Other workshops and presentations included "New Products at the Academy", MSHA "Winter Alert Campaign", "New Federal Diesel Regulations for Underground Coal Mines" and Closeout Q&A Session with the MSHA State Grants Program Office Staff. Grantees Glenn Rasco, Georgia, Matt Bertovich, Pennsylvania, and Marino Franchini, New York held workshops on selected topics that were of interest to the meeting participants. Other grantees such as Bill York-Feirn, Colorado, Ben Hart, Florida, and Ron Cunningham, Oklahoma, served on a panel for instructor workshops.

Planning for the fiscal year 1998 is underway and a tentative date is set for February 9-13, 1998. If you would like to be included on the agenda or have specific ideas to make for a better business meeting contact the State Grants Program Office at (703) 235-1400.

Standardized Health and Safety Issues

Stating with the 1998 grant, a standardized list of health and safety issues and issue titles will be used to simplify issue selection and improve tracking of grant workloads. These issues represent the majority of programs currently provided. Each state can select which issue or issues they wish to address. This concept was addressed at the grant business meeting by the State Grants Program Manager (Jim Baugher) and Greg Graham of his staff. The standardized issue listing was given to attendees and mailed to missing members.

The new Technical Information Database 1.0 which was introduced and demonstrated at the business meeting will have the standardize issues list as part of the data entry. The states will report workloads for the standardized issues and this will provide for better tracking of health and safety issues.

If your program have issue(s) that are not listed in the standardized list, make that issue number 13 for other and give a brief description of the issue. If there are more than one "other" issue, please number the issues in sequence starting with 13 and assign a descriptive title. This process is also used in the new Technical Information Database 1.0.

An instructional video along with the database will be distributed to all grantees. The video will show database operations, maintenance, and describe file transfer protocol (FTP) transmission of the report to the State Grants Program Office instead of E-Mail.

Listed below are the new standardized issues:

1. **Part 48, Annual Refresher Training**
2. **Part 48, New Miner Training**
3. **Silicosis Prevention**
4. **Powered Haulage Accident Prevention**
5. **Part 49, Mine Rescue Training**
6. **Certification/Qualification Training and Testing**
7. **Co-Operative Instructor Training**
8. **Seminars/Conferences**
9. **Parts 56 & 57 Training**
10. **Other Federally Required Training**
11. **Training Material Development**
12. **Noise Abatement**
13. **Other**

Wisconsin's Surface Haulage Program: Special Focus/Accident Reduction

Things to look for at a mine site!!!

Are loading areas, haul roads and dump sites congested?

Is the steepest haul road grade appropriate for the equipment? Is it within the dynamic retarding range of the haulage equipment manufacturer.

Are the radius, width, and grade of the haul roads appropriate for the speeds and the equipment?

Are the loading areas, haul roads, and dump sites bermed where appropriate? Is the dump area stable and capable of supporting the weight of loaded vehicles using the dump?
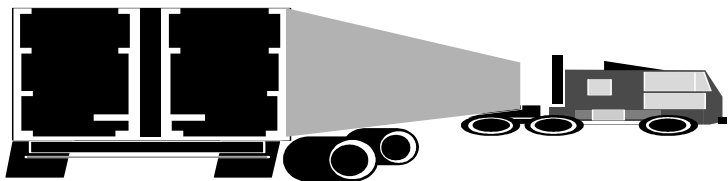
Are the operating procedures appropriate at the mine for their type of haulage?

Does the mine have established traffic rules? How is traffic control communicated? Are speed signs posted?

Is the haulage communication system adequate for the complexity of the operation? Is each haulage unit equipped with radio communication?

How comprehensive is the equipment maintenance program? (Is there a preventive maintenance program or do you use it until it breaks?)
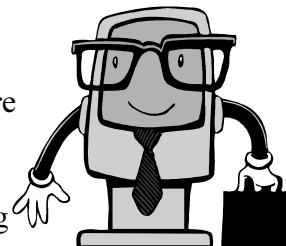
*State of Wisconsin
"Mine Safety News"*

SMARTLINK
Electronic Payment System HHS

*Division of Payment Management
Department of Health and Human Services
Quick Draw Newsletter*

Using a Pentium Computer with Windows 95!!

Grantees who connect to the HHS Smartlink system by using Kermit through a communications software may have compatibility problems. Windows 95 and Kermit are not compatible. Its kind of like putting a steam engine in a new Corvette; its just not going to work. Just consider it a "technology compatibility problem" that cannot be overcome. The recommendation is to try getting connected through the HyperTerminal function in Windows 95 or better yet, use a commercial communications software package specifically for Windows 95. Just set the communications parameters to those listed in your Smartlink User's Guide. As a last resort, you could also try using a PC that does not operate on Windows 95 to make your cash request, but why give up the Corvette to drive a Honda!!!!!

Special Notice to State Grantees!!

On Friday, May 23, 1997, Adam Hare of the MSHA Acquisition Management Branch had quadruple by pass heart surgery. At release time of this newsletter (6/12/97). Adam is in serious condition and we all in the State Grants Program Office and MSHA are praying for his recovery.

If you would like to send cards or well wishes to the hospital, the address is as follows:

*Washington Hospital Center
110 Irving Street, NW, Room 4G18
Washington, DC 20010*

The hospital requests that only silk or artificial flowers be sent. If his condition changes, grantees will be notified by E-Mail.

State Grants Note Pad

July 6-8, 1997
North Carolina Coal Institute Seminar
Radisson Hotel
Myrtle Beach, North Carolina

July 8-10, 1997
HSA/JAH National Council Meeting
Tropicana Hotel
Las Vegas, Nevada

August 25-27, 1997
28th Annual Institute on
Mine Health, Safety, & Resaearch
University Park Hotel
Salt Lake City, Utah

State Grants Technical Report Database ACCESS 2.0

Technical Report Database Access 2.0

Some states are experiencing problems with the State Grants Technical Reporting Database provided by the State Grants Program Office. The database was created in Microsoft ACCESS 2.0. A number of states have upgraded their operating systems to Windows 95 or Windows NT and upgrading the Microsoft Office Series to an 32 bit application software (ACCESS 7).

The 32 bit application software which runs ACCESS 7 has problems running the macros in the original version of the database which was created in ACCESS 2.0. The State Grants Program Office is under governmental restriction and must be compatible with the rest of the Agency, therefore limiting upgrade capabilities with some of the newer and faster software.

If your program has upgraded the software to the newer version (ACCESS 7) and cannot go back to the original version (ACCESS 2.0), please send in a hard copy of the technical report to the State Grants Program Office for quarterly submission. Also a notification letter will be sent to the states that are having E-mail compatibility problems.

Grant Manager's Corner

___Reminder!___ This is a reminder that the State Grants Quarterly Technical and Financial Reports for the second quarter of fiscal year 1997 were due on April 3, 1997 If you have not submitted your reports, please do so immediately. These reports can be submitted electronically or by hard copy in the mail.

The new reporting requirements and instructions for fiscal year 1998 will be sent to grantees by the end of the summer. A training video with all the information needed to setup and operate the new system will be distributed to all participants to facilitate implementation. These materials will be essential to train new operators.

If your program has not submitted a fiscal year 1998 state grant application to the State Grants Program Office, please do so immediately. We still have a number of late technical reports. Please check your system to see if you are up to date.

James Baugher
State Grants Manager

Remember, if you would like to submit an article or upcoming event in the Exchange, contact Greg Graham on (703) 235-1400.